

Message Text

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USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 0395

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL NATO
SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY - JAN
21, 1977 MEETING

REF: A. STATE 013138 DTG 192350Z JAN 77

SUMMARY. ON JAN 21, 1977, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY (AHC) REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF
ITS WORKING GROUPS AND DISCUSSED A PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE
GROUPS WITH RESPECT TO DECISIONS TAKEN BY MINISTERS IN
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DECEMBER. IN ADDTION, THE AHC APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTAINED IN AC/297-D/23, PROCEDURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE
INTEROPERABILITY OF FUTURE EQUIPMENT.END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING CHAIRMAN (ASYG LABERGE) OPENED THE MEETING BY
NOTING THAT BASED ON A NUMBER OF COMMENTS FROM INISTERS
IN DEC, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (AHC) COULD CONSIDER
THE RESULTS OF THEIR EFFORTS THUS FAR WITH A SENSE OF
PRIDE AND ACHIEVEMENT. THE WORK AHEAD FOR THE AHC
CONSISTED OF ORGANIZING A COURSE FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK AS

A RESULT OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY MINISTERS. THE REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS WAS THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MEETING. IN ADDITION, LABERGE NOTED, THE CHARGE GIVEN TO THE AHC TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPING PROCEDURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE INTEROPERABILITY OF FUTURE EQUIPMENT WAS A SIGNIFICANT ONE AND REPRESENTED, IN HIS VIEW, A FUNDAMENTAL DECISION ON THE PART OF MINISTERS INDICATING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DESCRIBE WHAT THEY ARE DOING NATIONALLY AND HOW THEY ARE WORKING TOWARD THE GOALS OF INTEROPERABILITY AND STANDARDIZATION.

2. LABERGE THEN TURNED TO A DISCUSSION OF WG/1 ON TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTED THAT A RESIDUAL ACTION FOR THE AHC WAS TO ACT FORMALLY ON THE REPORT OF WG/1 (AC/297-D17). HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF WHETHER, AT THIS JUNCTURE, IN VIEW OF SUBSEQUENT MINISTERIAL ACTION, THE AHC WANTED TO APPROVE OR NOTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. THE US REP (STREATOR) POINTED OUT THAT THE US PREFERRED TO NOTE THE REPORT IN LIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AHC IN ITS REPORT IMINSTERS(AC/297-D/20) AND THE SUBSEQUENT MINISTERIAL DECISIONS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF NATIONS WILLING TO APPROVE THE REPORT THE US REP SAID HE COULD APPROVE IT WITH QUALIFYING LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES HE INDICATED. THE REPORT WAS APPROVED WITH THE QUALIFYING LANGUAGE. ON FUTURE WG WORK, IN RESPONSE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FRG REP'S (BOSS) SUGGESTION THAT THE TASK ON COMBAT NET RADIOS BE TAKEN OVER BY THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS (TSG/CE) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE NL REP (SOOTENS) EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF PROGRESS BEING MADE IN SETTING IN MOTION THE TSG/CE. THE CONSENSUS OF THE AHC WAS THAT WG/1 WOULD START THE WORK AND TRANSFER IT TO THE TSG/CE AS SOON AS THE TSG WAS OPERATIONAL. LABERGE SAID HE WOULD REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TSG/CE AT THE NEXT AHC MEETING.

3. THE AHC APPROVED THE REPORT OF WG/2 (AC/297-D/16). SUBSEQUENTLY, DISCUSSION CENTERED ON WHICH BODY WOULD DEVELOP THE COST SHARING PROGRAM DIRECTED BY MINISTERS. UK REP (HOLMER) SUGGESTED REFERRING THE STUDY TO THE NATO AIR FORCE ARMAMENTS GROUP (NAFAG). A NUMBER OF OTHER NATIONS PREFERRED TO SEE WG/2 DO THE WORK EVEN IF IT NEEDED TO BE RECONSTITUTED WITH FINANCIAL EXPERTS TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK. THE US REP NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO EXISTING NAFAG SUBGROUP TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK; THAT A SUBGROUP WOULD NEED TO BE FORMED; THAT UNLESS THE AHC MADE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONCENTRATED EFFORT, THE SUBGROUP WOULD MEET ON ITS NORMAL TWICE-YEARLY SCHEDULE AND THIS WAS CLEARLY UNSATISFACTORY FROM THE PRIORITY GIVEN TO THE WORK BY MINISTERS. THE US REP

FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS LABERGE MIGHT REFLECT ON THE PROBLEM OF WHICH GROUP SHOULD DO THE STUDY AND CIRCULATE A PAPER WITH OPTIONS. WHEN LABERGE SHIFTED TO A DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC TASKS CONTAINED IN PARAS 57 AND 58 OF THE WG/2 REPORT, THE CONSENSUS WAS EVEN STRONGER THAT WG/2 SHOULD REVIEW THE ENTIRE PROBLEM AND GET ON WITH THE WORK - EVEN IF IT WAS NECESSARY TO SUPPLEMENT THE MEMBERSHIP. LABERGE AGREED TO CIRCULATE A PAPER ON THE SUBJECT. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT WG/2, SUPPLEMENTED AS NECESSARY, SHOULD PRESS ON WITH THE WORK AND RETAIN THE MOMENTUM THUS FAR GAINED. HOWEVER, WE WILL WANT TO REVIEW LABERGE'S PAPER ON OPTIONS BEFORE MAKING CONFIDENTIAL

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FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, END COMMENT.

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4. TURNING TO WG/3 ON TANK GUN AMMUNITION - LABERGE STATED THAT HE HOPED 1977 WOULD BE A BETTER YEAR THAN 1976 WAS FOR INTEROPERABILITY ASPECTS OF TANK GUN AMMUNITION. HE NOTED THAT WG/3 WAS BEING REACTIVATED AND WILL MEET ON JAN 27-28 TO DISCUSS THE REMAINING ISSUES IN THE AREA OF 105MM AMMUNITION. HE SAID HE DID

NOT INTEND TO RECOMMEND TO THE GROUP THAT IT TAKE UP THE
TOPIC OF 120MM UNTIL "NATIONS WERE READY TO TALK."
WITH REFERENCE TO DOCUMENT AC/297-D/22, THE FRENCH
REP (JAMET) STATED THAT FRANCE REGRETS THAT THE SITUATION
IS APPARENTLY WHAT IT IS. NO FURTHER COMMENT ON 155MM
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AMMUNITION INTERCHANGEABILITY WAS MADE.

5. THE CHAIRMAN THANKED THE US FOR ITS COMPREHENSIVE
REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE FUEL POLICY AND AIRCRAFT MODIFICA-
TION OPTIONS CIRCULATED AS AC/297(WG/4)D/3, AND NOTED
THAT WG/4 WILL MEET AGAIN ON FEB 8-10, 1977 TO DIS-
CUSS THIS STUDY AND PREPARE A RECOMMENDED COURSE OF
ACTION TO THE AHC.

6. MGEN LAWSON, CHAIRMAN MAS, STATED THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS
AND FORMAT FOR NATIONAL REPLIES TO THE PILOT
MONITORING SYSTEM FOR STANAGS WILL BE IN CAPITALS BY
THE END OF JANUARY. HE WILL REQUEST A DEADLINE OF
APRIL 1, 1977 FOR NATIONS TO PROVIDE THEIR INPUTS. WG/5
WILL MEET AGAIN AFTER APRIL 1, TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF
THE PILOT STUDY AND RECOMMEND A COURSE OF ACTION TO THE
AHC.

7. ON THE SUBJECT OF INTEROPERABILITY OF FUTURE EQUIP-
MENT, NATIONS AGREED TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN
LABERGE'S MEMORANDUM ON THE SUBJECT (AC/297-D/23).
WHILE NATIONS GENERALLY FAVORED THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED,
THE IMS AND SHAPE REPS EXPRESSED RESERVA-
TIONS ABOUT THE PROCEDURES AND SAID THEY INTENDED TO BE
REPRESENTED IN THE CNAD AD HOC STUDY GROUP ON A
PERIODIC ARMAMENTS PLANNING SYSTEM (PAPS) IN ORDER TO
STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE
PROCEDURES. A REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CNAD
AD HOC STUDY GROUP ON PAPS FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. COMMENT:
US SUGGESTED CHANGES TO AC/297-D/23 CONTAINED IN REF A
WERE CIRCULATED TO THE CNAD AD HOC STUDY GROUP ON PAPS.
END COMMENT. STRAUSZ-HUPE'

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